

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 3.1)
1. Process for monitoring the consumptions of a plurality of franking machines through a public communication network, at least one franking machine not being connected to this network,
  - 5 wherein it comprises the steps of:
    - firstly establishing a link with a management server through the public network, by means of at least one supervision terminal independent of the at least one off-line franking machine, in accordance with a determined protocol of communication,
    - 10 - and then proceeding with an exchange of data between the terminal and the server during which the user acquires at the supervision terminal a current invoicing index relative to the at least one off-line franking machine and in return receives a code of authorization to frank in order to validate the subsequent frankings of the at least one off-line franking machine.
  - 15 2. The process of Claim 1, wherein said protocol of communication used for establishing a link with the remote server is a Videotex protocol, such as teletel protocol.
  3. The process of Claim 1, wherein said protocol of communication used for establishing a link with the remote server is a protocol of TCP/IP type.
  - 20 4. The process of Claim 1, wherein said step of data exchange comprises a step of acquisition by the user of an identifier including at least one password or personal identification number.
  5. The process of Claim 1, wherein said step of data exchange comprises a step of display, at the supervision terminal, on the one hand, of a list of the
  - 25 printing heads associated with the user's plurality of franking machines, and, on the other hand, for each printing head, of a last invoicing index validated by the server.

6. The process of Claim 5, wherein said step of data exchange comprises a step of display, at the supervision terminal, of a selectable plurality of tables and/or of statistics in graph form relating to this list of printing heads.

5 7. The process of Claim 1, wherein said code of authorization to frank comprises information relative to an authorized maximum amount of credit or consumption and period of franking.

8. The process of Claim 1, wherein said code of authorization to frank is obtained by calculation from in particular said current invoicing index and/or the serial number of a printing head.

10 9. The process of Claim 1, wherein said code of authorization to frank is obtained by calculation from in particular the current date.

10. The process of Claim 1, wherein said code of authorization to frank is obtained by calculation from in particular the information relative to a maximum amount of credit or consumption authorized and/or to a period of franking  
15 authorized.

11. The process of Claim 1, wherein said protocol of communication used for establishing a link with the remote server is a protocol of telephonic communication of the vocal synthesis type.

12. Process for monitoring the consumptions of a plurality of franking  
20 machines through a public communication network,  
wherein it comprises the steps of:

- firstly establishing a link with a management server, through the public network, by means of at least one supervision terminal independent of this plurality of machines, in accordance with a determined protocol of communication,  
25 - and then proceeding with an exchange of data between the terminal and the server during which the user acquires at the supervision terminal an identifier including at least one password or personal identification number, and receives in

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